

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan ANNEX

City of Cotati

Introduction

The City of Cotati is a small-sized city in Sonoma County, California. The City has a population of 7,337 people, based on the California Department of Finance estimate for 2005. For Fiscal Year 2004-2005, the City's budget was \$11,547,386. The City has a staff of 41 full-time equivalent employees and is a full service city, with the exception of fire protection, which is provided by the Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District.

The Planning Process

This process of preparing this plan was familiar to the City of Cotati. The City has a Health and Safety Element in its General Plan that was last updated in 1997 and includes a discussion of earthquake and flooding hazards. In addition, the City routinely enforces California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements (which, since 1988, have required mitigation for identified natural hazards). The City's effort has focused on building on these pre-existing programs and identifying gaps that may lead to disaster vulnerabilities in order to work on ways to address these risks through mitigation.

Key City staff met to identify and prioritize mitigation strategies appropriate for the City. Staff involved in the discussions included representatives from the City Manager's Office, the City's Planning and Building Divisions, Public Works Department, and Police Department. At the meeting, the general priorities and appropriate City departments were identified and potential budgets and funding sources for strategies designed as "High" priority were discussed. The mitigation strategies are intended to become an implementation appendix to this annex.

Hazard and Risk Assessment

The ABAG multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, to which this is an Annex, lists ten hazards that impact the Bay Area, five related to earthquakes (faulting, shaking, earthquake-induced landslides, liquefaction, and tsunamis) and five related to weather (flooding, landslides, wildfires, dam inundation, and drought). Of the five earthquake-related hazards listed, surface faulting, landslides, and tsunamis are not a hazard in the City of Cotati. Faulting is not expected because there are no active faults located in the City. Tsunamis are also not an issue since the City is approximately 20 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean and the coastal mountain range, a natural barrier, lies within this divide. Landslides are also not anticipated due to the relatively flat topography of the City. The City does have some hillside areas that have been identified as having potential slope instability issues. The City of Cotati is also not subject to dam inundation, as there are no dam structures that would pose a threat within the vicinity.

While the City has undertaken a number of general hazard mapping activities in conjunction with preparation of the City's last General Plan update, all of these maps are less detailed and are not as current as those shown on the ABAG website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/>.

Information on disasters declared in Sonoma County is found at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/disaster-history.html>.

The City examined the hazard exposure of City urban land based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the urban acres shown in the City, the following acreages are subject to the respective hazard listed:

- ◆ Earthquake faulting – No active faults run within the City, so rupture of a fault is not a direct concern.
- ◆ Earthquake shaking – **247** acres are in the highest two categories of shaking potential, due in large part to the presence of the Healdsburg-Rogers Creek fault and the San Andreas Fault System, which lie approximately 5 miles to the east of the City and approximately 15 miles to the west of the City, respectively.
- ◆ Earthquake-induced landslides – A minor amount of acreage is susceptible to landslides, as the City is relatively flat. These areas have been mapped by the Sonoma County geologist, and are included in the City of Cotati General Plan.
- ◆ Earthquake liquefaction – **340** acres are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility.
- ◆ Tsunamis – No acreage is susceptible to tsunamis, as the City is approximately 20 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean and the coastal mountain range, a natural barrier, lies within this divide.
- ◆ Flooding – 204 acres are in the 100-year flood plain, while an additional 293 acres are in other flood-prone areas.
- ◆ Landslides – No acreage is susceptible to landslides, as the City is relatively flat and not adjacent to hillier areas.
- ◆ Wildfires – 35 acres are subject to high or very high wildfire threat (because of the urban nature of the City), but 809 acres are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.
- ◆ Dam Inundation – No acreage is subject to dam inundation, as no dams are within the area.
- ◆ Drought – all **1,201** acres are subject to drought.

The City also examined the hazard exposure of infrastructure based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 31 miles of roadway in the City,

- ◆ Earthquake faulting – No active faults run within the City, so rupture of a fault is not a direct concern.
- ◆ Earthquake shaking – 31 miles of roadway are in the highest two categories of shaking potential.
- ◆ Earthquake-induced landslides – No roadways are susceptible to landslides, as the City is relatively flat and not adjacent to hillier areas.
- ◆ Earthquake liquefaction – 31 miles of roadway are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility.

- ◆ Tsunamis – No roadways are susceptible to tsunamis, as the City is approximately 20 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean and the coastal mountain range, a natural barrier, lies within this divide.
- ◆ Flooding – Three miles of roadway are in the 100-year flood plain, while an additional six miles are in other flood-prone areas.
- ◆ Landslides – No roadways are susceptible to landslides, as the City is relatively flat and not adjacent to hillier areas.
- ◆ Wildfires – While only one mile of roadway is subject to high, or very high wild fire risk, 19 miles of roads are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.
- ◆ Dam Inundation – No roadways are subject to dam inundation, as no dams are within the area.
- ◆ Drought – is not a hazard for roadways.

Finally, the City examined the hazard exposure of critical health care facilities, schools, and city-owned buildings based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickcrit.html>. Of the critical facilities in the City,

- ◆ Earthquake faulting – No active faults run within the City, so rupture of a fault is not a direct concern.
- ◆ Earthquake shaking – The City's one school, all City-owned critical facilities (e.g. public safety station, City Hall, well sites), and all bridges and interchanges are in the highest two categories of shaking potential.
- ◆ Earthquake-induced landslides – No critical facilities are susceptible to landslides, as the City is relatively flat and not adjacent to hillier areas.
- ◆ Earthquake liquefaction – The City's three well sites and one bridge (Gravenstein Hwy and US 101) are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility.
- ◆ Tsunamis – No critical facilities are susceptible to tsunamis, as the City is approximately 20 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean and the coastal mountain range, a natural barrier, lies within this divide
- ◆ Flooding – No school facility, nor any of the City-owned critical facilities, and none of the bridges and interchanges are in either the 100-year flood plain or in other flood-prone areas.
- ◆ Landslides – No critical facilities are susceptible to landslides, as the City is relatively flat and not adjacent to hillier areas.
- ◆ Wildfires – The City Hall and Civic Center area are shown to be in wildland-urban interface threat area.
- ◆ Dam Inundation – No critical facilities are subject to dam inundation, as no dams are within the area.
- ◆ Drought – Drought will not affect city buildings directly, however, the City does operate the local water-supply distribution system and this system could be subject to drought-related problems. In January 2005, the City adopted a Water Supply Assessment (WSA) that examines the City's future development under its General Plan and the ability of the current and projected water supply to accommodate the existing City and future growth. The WSA shows that the use of water supplied by the Sonoma County Water Agency, the City's groundwater wells, and the projected

recycled water supply is expected to meet the City's projected demand during multiple dry years.

In spite of the limited areas of the City that are listed as flood-prone ones, there are no repetitive loss properties in the City based on the information at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickflood.html>.

As noted above, potential drought problems have been examined in the City's WSA and measures recommended to help address these problems. Furthermore, the City will continue to work with ABAG and any applicable water supply agencies on this issue.

The City plans to work with ABAG to develop specific information about the kind and level of damage to buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities which might result from any of the hazards previously noted. The ABAG Annex states that ABAG will be doing this work in 2005 through early 2006.

As these impacts are not fully developed, the City has reviewed the hazards identified and ranked the hazards based on past disasters and expected future impacts. The conclusion is that earthquakes (particularly shaking), pose the greatest risk for potential loss.

Mitigation Activities and Priorities

As a participant in the ABAG multi-jurisdictional planning process, City of Cotati staff helped in the development and review of the comprehensive list of mitigation strategies in the overall multi-jurisdictional plan. The list was discussed at a meeting of representatives from the City Manager's Office, City's Planning and Building Divisions, Public Works Department, and Police Department on January 4, 2006. At the meeting, all of the mitigation strategies were reviewed. The tentative decision on priority was made based on a variety of criteria, not simply on an economic cost-benefit analysis. These criteria include being technically and administratively feasible, politically acceptable, socially appropriate, legal, economically sound, and not harmful to the environment or our heritage.

Over time, we are committed to developing better hazard and risk information to use in making those trade-offs. We are not trying to create a disaster-proof region, but a disaster-resistant one. In addition, several of the strategies are existing City programs.

These draft priorities were submitted to the City Manager and affected City departments for review. The draft priorities were then provided to the City Council on January 11, 2006. The public was provided with an opportunity to comment on the DRAFT priorities prior to and at the January 11, 2006 meeting. The City Council passed the resolution adopting this Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex on August 3, 2006. The final strategies (as shown in the attached Table) will become an *Implementation Appendix* to the City's *Safety Element*.

Note that only one strategy is currently identified as being a *High* priority. On the other hand, several strategies are identified as being *Under Study* or *Not Yet Considered*. When the process

of fully considering all of the mitigation strategies is complete, additional strategies are likely to assigned a *High* priority.

The Plan Maintenance and Update Process

The City's Planning Division will ensure that monitoring of this Annex will occur on an on-going basis. To help determine the need for modifications to this Annex, the City shall examine any major disasters affecting our community, legal changes, notices from ABAG as the lead agency in this process, and other triggers.

The City of Cotati is committed to reviewing and updating this plan annex at least once every five years, as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The City's Planning Staff will contact ABAG four years after this plan is approved to ensure that ABAG plans to undertake the plan update process. If so, the City again plans to participate in the multi-jurisdictional plan. If ABAG is unwilling or unable to act as the lead agency in the multi-jurisdictional effort, other agencies will be contacted, including the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services. The affected cities and the County (and potentially other counties) should then work together to identify another regional forum for developing a multi-jurisdictional plan.

The public will continue to be involved whenever the plan is updated, and as appropriate during the monitoring and evaluation process. Prior to the adoption of updates, the City will provide the opportunity for the public to comment on the updates. A public notice will be posted prior to the meeting to announce the comment period and meeting logistics.